

POWER TO ARM U. S. SHIPS

CUNARD LINER LACONIA WITH TEN AMERICANS SUNK

AVALANCHE KILLS FIFTEEN MEN OF THE IDAHO NORTH STAR

PRESIDENT ASKS CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE HIM TO ESTABLISH ARMED NEUTRALITY AS A PREPARATION FOR THE OVERT ACT

(By Associated Press.)
BOISE, Feb. 26.—An avalanche swept down on the buildings of the North Star mine 12 miles northeast of Hailey, Idaho, early yesterday, demolishing the compressor house, warehouse and bunkhouse, smothering and crushing the sleeping men in the debris and snow.

The bodies of nine miners have recovered, six are missing and probably dead, and 15 are injured, some seriously.

Among the injured is Thomas Jay, mine superintendent.

Search for the missing men, some of whom it was hoped might be found alive, was abandoned last night because of the imminent danger of a slide from the opposite side of the canyon.

For a time the Federal Mining & Smelting company, owners of the North Star mine, had a force of 90 men engaged in recovering the dead.

Abandonment of all hope of finding any of the victims alive and the danger of precipitating a second slide caused the company to call off the rescuers.

Immediately on receiving news of the disaster a special train conveying physicians and workers was sent from Hailey to Gimlet, from where the party was obliged to travel six miles to the mine in sleighs. The injured men were brought to Gimlet station in sleighs, and from there were taken to Hailey on the train. It is reported that three of this number are seriously injured.

Bodies of the dead were left at the mine temporarily.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—President Wilson addressed Congress at 1 o'clock today asking authority to establish a state of "armed neutrality," to protect American ships. He asked power to use the armed forces to protect the country's right on the high seas, not as an act of war, but in preparation for a warlike act by any other nation. It is expected that Congress will authorize the president to arm merchant ships.

News of the Laconia disaster was received as the president was on his way to address Congress on the grave possibilities to which he gave added emphasis. After greeting Congress, he said: "We are moving through critical times during which it seems my duty to keep in close touch with Congress so neither counsel nor action may run at cross purposes between us."

When the president sketched

events since the blockade, mentioning the sinking of the Housatonic and Lyman M. Law, he said: "Our commerce is suffering rather in apprehension than in fact, because so many ships are timidly keeping in their ports. The serious congestion of commerce is growing more serious every day, but the overt

act which I ventured to hope the German commanders would avoid, has not occurred. But there have been indications that have increased the impression that, if our ships and people are spared, it will be because of fortunate circumstances rather than because of instructions to commanders. It is foolish to deny

that the situation is fraught with the gravest possibilities and dangers, and it would be most imprudent to be unprepared. In view of the fact that it would require unusual time to assemble and organize the next Congress after the adjournment of this one, I feel I ought to obtain full and immediate assurance of authority which we may need any moment."

In conclusion he asked for authority to supply defensive arms to merchantmen or "employ any other instrumentalities." Also "sufficient credit" to enable and provide "adequate means of protection."

The president completed his address early and sent it to the printer. He discussed the speech with Senator Stone and is confident that an extra session of Congress will not be necessary.

Chairman Flood, of the foreign affairs committee, announced he would introduce a bill granting power to the president to arm ships and all other authority necessary. There was no applause for the speech until the very end, when there was a storm of hand clapping and cheering. The sentiment of the house generally seems to be that if the legislation proposed limits the president to arming ships and supplying convoys it will carry. The Republicans particularly oppose any attempt to give him blanket authority to involve the country in war. Chairman Flood said his bill will meet this objection. He believes the president has no desire to be entrusted with power to make war.

ALL HEAT RECORDS BROKEN BY SAN ANTONIO READINGS

(By Associated Press.)
SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Feb. 26.—Thermometers at San Antonio registered 91 degrees at five o'clock yesterday afternoon. This is said to break all records for February in 33 years.

FOUR MEN KILLED IN A FREIGHT WRECK

(By Associated Press.)
PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 26.—Four persons were killed and three injured in a wreck on the Pennsylvania railroad near Bristol, Pa., yesterday. All the victims, with the exception of J. H. King, an engineer, were attendants in charge of two cars of thoroughbred horses. The wreckage caught fire and a score of freight and express cars were destroyed.

RESPONSIBILITY PUT BY BRAZIL UPON GERMANY

SOUTHERN REPUBLIC SAYS IT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE SUBMARINE BLOCKADE

(By Associated Press.)
RIO JANEIRO, Feb. 26.—Brazil's declaration to Germany that she does not recognize the submarine blockade and leaves with Germany the responsibility for all acts from which Brazilian merchantmen may suffer in violation of international law has elicited from Germany a statement that the blockade will not be abandoned.

It is announced officially that the German foreign office has declared to the Brazilian minister in Berlin that it regrets neutral interests should suffer on account of military measures. Nevertheless Germany has reached the unchangeable determination to maintain the submarine blockade, to abandon which would involve national annihilation.

GERMAN DESTROYERS BOMBARD ENGLISH PORT

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Feb. 26.—German destroyers have bombarded Broadstairs, Margate. One woman and a child were killed, and two persons injured.

HARRY THAW'S LUNACY

(By Associated Press.)
PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 26.—A petition was filed in behalf of Thaw's mother to have him declared a lunatic.

SIX MILLIONS FOR RELIEF

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—A resolution introduced by Senator Borah proposed an appropriation of \$6,000,000 for federal relief in the present food situation.

BOYCOTT ORGANIZED

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Some retail grocers have joined in a boycott against potatoes, onions and chickens.

GERMANS FALL BACK IN THE ANCRE VALLEY

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Feb. 26.—Reuters' correspondent at headquarters in France sends a description of how the Germans are shortening their line in the Ancre valley. He says the decision to do this evidently was arrived at some time ago, and that the recent German activity during the long spell of hard frosts

RESTORING LANDS TO PUBLIC DOMAIN

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR URGED TO OPEN TO ENTRY LARGE TRACT LAND

(By Associated Press.)
CARSON CITY, Feb. 26.—A resolution was offered in the senate today by Penrose memorializing the secretary of the interior to restore to entry 100,000 acres of land in Nevada not in any present or contemplated irrigation project.

Harrington offered a bill providing that the state library shall be open nights and Sundays and giving the librarian a second deputy as a salary of \$950 a year.

After lengthy discussion the committee of the whole recommended that the salary provision in the state auditor bill be reduced from \$3500 to \$3000 per year.

Ackerman introduced a bill providing that the salary of no state officials shall be reduced until the term for which he is elected has expired.

FOURTEEN IN FLAMES AS AN AIRSHIP FALLS

(By Associated Press.)
BERLIN, Feb. 26.—A French airship was set afire by anti-aircraft fire near Weeffordingen, Lorraine, Friday night. The crew of 14 was killed when they fell flaming. The ammunition the ship carried exploded when it landed.

AMERICAN SHIPS WILL SAIL WHEN ALLOWED TO ARM

GREAT LINERS UNDER AMERICAN FLAG ARE READY TO RESUME TRIPS

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—If the president is authorized to arm ships to protect merchantmen, the American liners St. Louis, St. Paul, New York, Philadelphia and Kroonland, tied here, will resume their sailings. The freighters Falkland, Norwegian, and the Manxman, British, arrived after passing through the blockade.

The Belgian ship Escault sailed today for an unnamed European port.

EDWIN GOULD KILLED WHILE OUT HUNTING

STRUCK A COON WITH GUN, WHICH WAS ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGED

(By Associated Press.)
BRUNSWICK, Ga., Feb. 26.—Edwin Gould, Jr., son of the New York capitalist, was accidentally killed while hunting near Jenkyl Island Saturday night. Mr. Gould was hunting coons. He struck a coon on the head with the butt of his gun and the weapon was discharged, fatally wounding him. His companion had to row two miles in a small boat for help.

Health Department Finds Why Living so Expensive

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Enormous increase in the exportation of staple articles of food without a corresponding increase in production, and lack of intelligent economy in buying by housewives, are ascribed by the department of health of this city, in a report issued tonight as the chief reasons for steadily rising prices.

The department declared: "There does not appear to be any sudden or recently developed emergency in the food situation in this city, although there has been serious rioting in various parts of the city." While the report asserts there is no emergency, it also says: "It is apparent that unless the present high prices of food are reduced or controlled, or as an alternative the income of families which now maintain themselves on \$300 a year or less, is increased by raise of wages

or through relief agencies, there will be a constantly increasing number of people whose health will be jeopardized by their inability to buy sufficiently nourishing food at the present prices."

No financial aid from the city could ameliorate conditions, it was said, but an extension of the school luncheon system and the teaching of intelligent buying will go far to remedy such hardships in families which are living below the food standard which will maintain health. "The well-to-do may contribute considerably in the reduction of the high price of food," the report declared, "by altering habits of carelessness and extravagance in their homes."

Figures are presented to show that in cases in exports of staple goods, have ranged from 36 per cent in the case of mutton, to 1700 per cent in the case of cheese. "The figures do not indicate that there is any hoarding of food, or

holding of food for speculative purposes in this city," the report said. The report urged in conclusion, support of bills now before the state legislature which would prevent the sale in New York City of skim milk and remove the present restrictions on the sale of so-called "hot veal."

"No one is going to starve," said Governor Whitman in a statement issued today, and it is foolish to assert that anyone has to. Enough rice is available at a low price to afford relief until legislative action is taken. The department of health reported to the mayor there is less dependency and real need than for many years, but that families with incomes under \$300 yearly would suffer by inability to buy sufficiently nourishing food. The report urged that the poor be educated to buy intelligently and said the well-to-do might contribute toward this education by altering habits of carelessness and extravagance in their homes.

STRONGHOLD CAPTURED AND ENGLISH DEFEAT OF YEAR AGO AVENGED

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Feb. 26.—Kut el Amara has been captured from the Turks by the British, according to Bonar Law's announcement in the house of commons. The Turks are retreating toward Baghdad 24 miles west with cavalry pursuing.

BREAK GERMAN LINES

(By Associated Press.)
PARIS, Feb. 26.—A French detachment broke into the German lines near Ville sur Tourbe, 25 miles west of Verdun and destroyed a number of shelters.

TODAY AND A YEAR AGO

Official readings of the thermometer by the United States observer at Tonopah:

1917	1916
5 a. m.	28
9 a. m.	29
12 noon	35
2 p. m.	39
Humidity	31 per cent.

An adlet in the Bonanza is the best investment.

TITAN OF THE SEAS REGISTERING 18,000 TONS, SUNK BY SUBMARINE

(By Associated Press.)
QUEENSTOWN, Feb. 26.—The Cunard liner Laconia, 18,000 tons burden, which sailed from New York February 18 for Liverpool, was torpedoed without warning and sunk today. The vessel had 100 passengers, including about ten Americans. Survivors to the number of 270 will be landed tonight.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The Cunard line announces that there was only one casualty so far as known.

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Twenty Americans, all native born, are members of the Laconia's crew. The vessel carried 5000 sacks of United States mail of which 1300 were transferred from the American liner St. Louis when it was decided to hold the latter in port. Many valuable securities and documents from American firms are believed to be in the bags. The crew numbered 216.

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Feb. 26.—Wesley Frost, American consul at Queenstown, has telegraphed the Laconia was torpedoed at 11 o'clock last night; 278 survivors. Details are lacking, but it is known that one is dead and some are missing.

BRITISH VESSEL READY FOR WORK

BATTLESHIP GRAY BECOMES POPULAR AS ARMAMENT GROWS HEAVIER

(By Associated Press.)
BALTIMORE, Feb. 26.—The British steamer Queensmoor, sister ship of the Vedamoore, which was torpedoed several weeks ago, arrived today, armed with a five-inch gun. This is the largest gun mounted on any ship coming to this port. Captain Hignett said he sailed the day after the Vedamoore was sunk. His ship is a battleship gray, a novelty here.

He said that the impression in England is that a spring drive is soon to commence, and that guns, heavier than yet used on either side, are being massed by the British in France. Captain Hignett's son was killed in action six weeks ago, and the boy's mother died from the shock.

BUTLER THEATRE

TONIGHT

CONCERT by 4-piece string orchestra during first show

Do not miss Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Speech

Every man, woman and child should see it

EDITH STOREY and ANTONIO MORENO in "MONEY MAGIC"

See versatile star in new role

Hearst Pathe News—Current events

Seven reel show and grand concert

Eight reels tomorrow

"Pearl of the Army," with popular Pearl White. Lou Tellegen (formerly leading man for Sarah Bernhardt) in "The Victory of Conscience." Burton Holmes "Bay of Fundy to St. Lawrence"

Wednesday — CHAPLIN—5 reels

Matinee 1:30—Night 7 and 8:30

Admission 10-15c